



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 March 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports the white supremacist gang Public Enemy No. 1 that began as a group of teenage punk-rock fans from Southern California, now deals in drugs, guns, and identity theft and is gaining clout across the West after forging an alliance with the notorious Aryan Brotherhood. (See item [6](#))
- The Palladium Times reports the fishing industry in Upstate New York is in jeopardy because of a newly discovered Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus that has made its way into the water systems. (See item [18](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 06, Energy Information Administration* — **Report: Short-term energy outlook.** World oil markets tightened in recent weeks in response to production cuts by members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the return of cold winter weather in North America. February's cold weather and higher demand for heating fuels reduced petroleum inventories (both crude and product) more than expected and raised spot prices for crude oil and natural gas, which had fallen in January. Average monthly motor gasoline prices are expected to increase by nearly 40 cents per gallon from February (\$2.28 per

gallon) through June, peaking at \$2.67 per gallon. Rising crude oil prices and seasonal demand are the principal drivers for this expected increase. The projected average of about \$2.60 per gallon for the upcoming driving season (April–September) would be about 20 cents per gallon less than last year’s driving season average. Next month, the outlook for motor fuels will be updated and examined in detail in the Summer Fuels Outlook. Projections of U.S. heating fuel expenditures for the winter of 2006–07 have increased to \$898 compared with \$862 in the last Outlook, due to February’s unusual cold weather. Nevertheless, this amount still represents a decline from \$948 last winter.

Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo>

2. *March 05, Reuters* — **Animals trip Los Angeles–area refineries, boost gasoline prices.** A raccoon and an opossum separately set off electrical power disruptions at two Los Angeles–area refineries on Sunday night, March 4, and Monday morning, boosting gasoline prices on the U.S. West Coast. Wholesale gasoline prices jumped seven cents in the Los Angeles market at word of the upsets on Monday morning. An opossum in a Southern California Edison commercial customer substation and a raccoon in a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power substation upset power supplies to the refineries within an hour of each other late Sunday night. The Southern California Edison substation in Torrance, CA, tripped offline at about 9 p.m. PST on Sunday, spokesperson Tom Boyd said. Exxon Mobil Corp.’s 150,000–barrel–per–day (bpd) Torrance refinery lost power at about that time, setting off a two–hour disruption in operations, said spokesperson Carolin Keith. At about 10:20 p.m. PST Sunday, a Los Angeles Water and Power substation in Wilmington, CA, switched offline, cutting power to a Shell Oil Co. refinery for about 10 seconds, said the utility’s spokesperson Kim Hughes. Animals crawling into electrical substations and transformers is not uncommon and disrupting power is not uncommon, Hughes said.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=com
panyNews&storyid=37366+06–Mar–2007+RTRS&WTmodLoc=InvArt–L2–C
ompanyNews–2](http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=companyNews&storyid=37366+06–Mar–2007+RTRS&WTmodLoc=InvArt–L2–CompanyNews–2)

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *March 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–367R: Defense Acquisitions: Air Force Decision to Include a Passenger and Cargo Capability in Its Replacement Refueling Aircraft Was Made without Required Analyses (Correspondence).** The Air Force has described aerial refueling as a key capability supporting the National Security Strategy and military warfighters on a daily basis. Currently, the Air Force uses two aircraft for aerial refueling: the KC–135 and the KC–10. While the KC–10 fleet has an average age greater than 20 years, the KC–135 fleet averages more than 46 years and is the oldest combat weapon system in the Air Force inventory. Consequently, the Air Force intends to replace or

recapitalize the KC-135 first. Because of broad congressional interest, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is currently reviewing the Analysis of Alternatives for the recapitalization of the KC-135 aircraft. To fully understand the Analysis of Alternatives for the KC-135 Recapitalization, GAO reviewed the requirements determination process, of which an analysis of alternatives is a part. The purpose of this report is to bring to light issues concerning the adequacy of Department of Defense analyses used to determine the requirements for a refueling aircraft with passenger and cargo capabilities, for which a contract is to be awarded late in fiscal year 2007.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-367R>

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *March 06, CNET News.com* — **Study: Identity theft keeps climbing.** The rate of identity theft-related fraud has risen sharply since 2003, a report from research firm Gartner suggests. Gartner's study, released Tuesday, March 6, shows that from mid-2005 until mid-2006, about 15 million Americans were victims of fraud that stemmed from identity theft, an increase of more than 50 percent from the estimated 9.9 million in 2003. It should be noted that the 2003 statistics and the mid-2006 statistics came from two different sources—and hence, two different statistical methodologies. The original 9.9 million figure came from the Federal Trade Commission, whereas the 15 million statistic is Gartner's own. According to the study, identity theft victims are also recovering less of the lost cash. In 2005, an average of 87 percent of funds were recovered; in 2006, that had dropped to 61 percent. The study attributed the rise in identity theft fraud to increased levels of electronic identity theft. However, the supposed rise in identity theft is a controversial claim. Last month, research firm Javelin Strategy & Research released a report that suggested certain identity-theft statistics—the number of fraudulent accounts opened, for example—are actually on the decline.

Gartner Report: http://www.gartner.com/DisplayDocument?doc_cd=146532

Javelin Strategy & Research: <http://www.javelinstrategy.com/2007/02/01/us-identity-theft-losses-fall-study/>

Source: http://news.com.com/Study+Identity+theft+keeps+climbing/2100-1029_3-6164765.html?tag=cd.top

5. *March 06, InformationWeek* — **Manual processes leave businesses open to insider threats, study says.** Nearly 60 percent of U.S. businesses and government agencies report they don't have the information or the technology to deal with insider threats to their network, according to a new study. The research, done by the Ponemon Institute, also shows that 58 percent still rely on manual controls to audit and control user access to critical enterprise systems and data resources, leaving networks open to privacy breaches, failed audits, and potential fraud or misuse of data. According to the study, 71 percent of respondents confirm that identity compliance activities are strategically important, resulting in an average of 28 percent of total IT compliance budgets. And 64 percent of respondents say they have deployed an identity and access management system (IAM), a category that includes access control, password management, provisioning, and role management. That's not solving the problem, though. The study also shows that almost 60 percent of respondents say their companies are unable to effectively focus IAM controls on areas of the greatest business risk. They add that this is a

"severe" risk.

Study: http://www.ponemon.org/press/SailPoint_IDM_Survey_FINAL1.pdf

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=KROSZE23JEQ34QSNL0SKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=197800526>

6. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Growing white supremacist gang involved in identity theft.**

The white supremacist gang Public Enemy No. 1 began two decades ago as a group of teenage punk-rock fans from upper-middle class bedroom communities in Southern California. Now, the violent gang that deals in drugs, guns and identity theft is gaining clout across the West after forging an alliance with the notorious Aryan Brotherhood, authorities say. In the past three years, its ranks have doubled to at least 400, but authorities suspect there could be hundreds of other members operating under the radar. They said heavy recruiting is taking place throughout California and Arizona, and members have been picked up by police in Nevada and Idaho. Public Enemy is now involved in identity theft. Cpl. Nate Booth, a gang detective with the Buena Park Police Department in Orange County, said the gang has gone from swiping personal information from mailboxes and trash to stealing entire credit profiles with the help of girlfriends and wives who take jobs at banks, mortgage companies and even state motor vehicle departments. Money from those operations is used to fuel its methamphetamine business, he said. Authorities worry that Public Enemy is using stolen credit information to learn the home addresses of police and their families.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/03/04/white.supremacist.gang.ap/index.html>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

7. *March 06, USA TODAY* — **US Airways' ticketing system problems persist.** US Airways continued to struggle with a faulty reservation-and-ticketing system Monday, March 5, and attempted to keep lines down at key airports by adding workers and encouraging travelers to use the Internet for flight check-ins. Airports particularly hard hit by the computer problems: Las Vegas, Boston, Charlotte, and Reagan Washington National. On Sunday, US Airways combined its reservation system with the America West system. The airlines merged in 2005, and integration of the reservation systems has been a major issue in creating a unified carrier. When the new system started over the weekend, it failed to communicate with ticketing kiosks at airports. That forced all passengers to check in at airport counters, creating massive lines. On a normal day, 40 percent of passengers would use kiosks to check in, Kirby said. Airline management had developed contingency plans for the computer switch, ran dress rehearsals and flew staff from Phoenix, the hometown airport for US Airways, to help at eastern airports, US Airways President Scott Kirby said. But the carrier hadn't specifically prepared for the possibility of a widespread kiosk problem.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-03-05-us-airways-monday-update_N.htm

8. *March 06, Boston Globe* — **MBTA retiree accused of skimming \$40,700.** For years, Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) police say, the electrician stole bucketsful of tokens and coins from fare vending machines, unnoticed by anyone. It was only when workers spotted him trying to convert the tokens into plastic fare cards that investigators uncovered one

of the largest thefts in the agency's history, police said on Monday, March 5. Police charged Robert P. Gibson, a 69-year-old electrician who retired last October, with skimming \$40,700 from machines he fixed. Investigators didn't know anything was amiss until workers at Wellington station on the Orange Line spotted the balding retiree in a blue ski jacket and glasses feeding tokens into new fare vending machines day after day late last year. Stranger still, Gibson, who left the authority last year making \$79,500 a year in base pay, had a free lifetime retiree pass to ride the system. Investigators said they did not know how long Gibson had allegedly been stealing, though the volume of coins and tokens recovered indicates he was skimming for years, police said. Also, cash and tokens were accessible to anyone who opened a token machine for repairs, and none of the old token vending machines or fare boxes had cameras pointed at them.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/03/06/mbta_retiree_accused_of_skimming_40700/

9. *March 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-545T: Performance and Accountability: Transportation Challenges Facing Congress and the Department of Transportation (Testimony).** A safe, efficient, and convenient transportation system is integral to the health of our economy and quality of life. The nation's vast transportation system of airways, railways, roads, pipelines, transit, and waterways has served this need, yet it is under considerable strain from (1) increasing congestion, (2) the large costs to maintain and improve it, and (3) the human cost of over 44,000 people killed and over 2.5 million injured each year in transportation-related accidents. The Department of Transportation implements national transportation policy and administers most federal transportation programs. For fiscal year 2008, the department has requested \$67 billion to carry out these and other activities. While the department carries out some activities directly, such as employing about 15,000 air traffic controllers to make certain that planes stay a safe distance apart, it does not have direct control over the vast majority of activities that it funds, such as local decisions on the priority and placement of airports, public transit, and roads. In other cases, such as railways and pipelines, the infrastructure is owned and operated by industry. This statement presents the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) views on major transportation challenges facing Congress and the department. It is based on GAO products, including recommendations made, and the products of others.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07545thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-545T>

10. *March 06, Associated Press* — **Flight diversion after man stopped by LAX security.** A US Airways jet heading from Los Angeles to Philadelphia was diverted to Las Vegas on Tuesday, March 6, to be searched after reports of a security breach at Los Angeles International Airport, authorities said. Flight 1422, with 143 passengers and six crewmembers, landed at McCarran International Airport about 8:30 a.m. MST. The Airbus A320 was parked in a secure area away from terminals to await a search by authorities, said Chris Jones, a spokesperson for the airport. The diversion occurred because the plane was carrying the bag of a man who had been detained for questioning at the Los Angeles airport, US Airways said. The man was stopped at a security screening checkpoint at Terminal One shortly after 5:30 a.m. PST. He was carrying a "suspicious item" that was seized, said Nico Melendez of the Transportation Security Administration. The man's bag had been security-screened and was on the flight that left Los Angeles about 6:40 a.m., US Airways spokesperson Liz Landau said. Standard policy in such

situations requires that planes be stopped and searched, she

Source: <http://www.kfwb.com/pages/288113.php?contentType=4&contentId=362720>

11. *March 06, Associated Press* — **NTSB had urged bus safety improvements.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the federal agency investigating last week's deadly crash of a bus carrying a college baseball team, has for years sought safety improvements that could have reduced the number of injuries from the accident. Six people were killed and at least 29 hurt when the driver of the Bluffton University team bus apparently mistook an exit ramp in Atlanta as a regular traffic lane. The bus slammed into a barrier at an intersection and overturned, falling 30 feet onto a highway below. As far back as 1999 the NTSB recommended taking steps to prevent passengers from being thrown out of buses or tossed around inside, including installing seat belts or shatterproof windows. In last week's crash, at least seven of the passengers were thrown from the bus, including all four players who were killed and two survivors who ended up pinned beneath the vehicle. Most of the other injuries involved cuts from shattered windows and broken bones and bruises from passengers' being thrown around by the impact. Many of the injuries could have been avoided or reduced if safety improvements recommended by the NTSB for motor coaches had been implemented, said Jim Hall, NTSB chairman from 1994 to 2001.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/G/GEORGIA_BUS_WRECK?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

12. *March 06, Associated Press* — **Los Angeles bound flight canceled in NYC due to mechanical problem.** A United Airlines flight bound for Los Angeles left JFK International Airport on Tuesday, March 6, but returned soon after due to a mechanical problem. Flight 25, carrying 96 passengers, landed without incident, said Alan Hicks, a spokesperson for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. "Shortly after the flight departed, there was an issue with the No. 2 engine, and the pilot returned to JFK," said Megan McCarthy, a spokesperson for United. She said the flight, which departed at 11:15 a.m. EST, was canceled, and passengers were being accommodated on other flights throughout the day.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20070306-1026-flight canceled.html>

13. *March 06, New York Times* — **Failure in new computer diverts air traffic.** A failure in one of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) newest air traffic computers early Monday morning, March 5, forced controllers to hold airliners on the ground, send others on detours over hundreds of miles and put two into holding patterns over the ocean near Bermuda, an unusual procedure for intercontinental flights. The system handles airplanes over water, beyond the range of land-based radar. It receives position reports relayed by satellite, and is supposed to allow planes to fly closer to one another while still assuring that they are safe from collision. Controllers say that the system occasionally generates warning messages erroneously, and that it can be corrected by deleting a plane from the system and re-entering it. That procedure, however, takes three to five minutes and is hard to do for more than one plane at a time. According to air traffic controllers, two airlines had a plane bound for Europe put in a holding pattern for 15 minutes. FAA spokesperson Laura J. Brown said 27 flights were diverted to Canadian airspace and six to Caribbean airspace, while 10 were held on the ground.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/06/washington/06planes.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *March 06, Memphis Business Journal* — FedEx expands air freight services.

Memphis-based FedEx Corp is expanding its International Priority Freight service to cover more than 130 countries, FedEx Corp. announced Monday, March 5. Launching the service in 64 new markets in Europe, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean, FedEx International Priority Freight now operates in more than 130 countries, with deliveries made within one to three business days.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070305/1427095.html?v=1>

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Agriculture Sector

15. *March 06, Reuters* — Agency halts sale of a modified rice. The U.S. Department of Agriculture ordered seed dealers on Monday, March 5, not to sell a long-grain rice seed that may contain a genetic modification not approved for planting. The agency issued “emergency action notifications” to distributors to prevent planting of Clearfield CL131 seed. Similar orders will be issued to farmers to prevent use of the seed until the agency’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection tests the rice. Arkansas state officials say the Clearfield variety apparently contains a genetically modified strain that contains a gene which makes it resistant to the herbicide Liberty. The rice variety disrupted the American rice industry in the summer of 2006 after the material, which was not cleared for food use, was found in commercial bins in Arkansas and Missouri. BASF Agricultural Products said late Monday, that it was removing all Clearfield CL131 rice seed from the marketplace.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/06/business/06rice.html>

16. *March 06, American Veterinary Medical Association* — Neurologic form of EHV-1 a potentially emerging disease. The Center for Emerging Issues, part of the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has released an emerging disease notice report regarding the neurologic form of equine herpesvirus (EHV-1). The U.S. horse industry has become increasingly concerned about the disease because of the rising number of outbreaks reported in the past five years. In 2006, 11 outbreaks involving eight states were reported, compared with seven outbreaks involving five states reported in 2005. Prior to 2003, reports of the disease in the U.S. were sporadic, with typically no to few outbreaks identified annually.

APHIS report: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cei/taf/emergingdiseasenotice_files/ehv1final.pdf

Source: <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/mar07/070315j.asp>

17. *March 05, CattleNetwork* — Bovine tuberculosis confirmed in New Mexico. New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) officials reported a confirmed case of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in the state's southeastern region. NMLB and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have launched an investigation. The disease was detected in a dairy cow in Eddy County during routine testing. Of primary concern is the financial toll on farmers if the disease is not contained.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=110704>

18. *March 05, Palladium Times (NY)* — **Ontario fishing imperiled by new virus.** The fishing industry in Upstate New York is in serious jeopardy because of a newly discovered virus that has made its way into the water systems. The size and scope of the Lake Ontario fishing industry is largely undetermined, but it is thought to be a multi-million dollar industry. “We can put a \$170,000 figure on one processing plant, but the bait fish industry in New York State is huge,” said Dave MacNeill, fishery expert for New York State Sea Grant. Regulations that have been placed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the federal government have all but ended commercial bait fishing in New York State. The regulations prohibit the commercial capture and sale of bait fish in New York State, and limit the personal possession and use of bait fish from infected waters. Much remains unknown about the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus, particularly about the strain that has spread through New York's waters, but there are things that scientists do know: The virus has caused the deaths of thousands of fish, sometimes in large numbers, and there is no known cure.

Source: <http://www.pall-times.com/articles/2007/03/06/news/news1.txt>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

19. *March 03, Pueblo Chieftan (CO)* — **Wastewater release exceeds chlorine limits.** A release of nearly 500,000 gallons of heavily chlorinated water into the Arkansas River earlier this week was reported to state health officials Friday, March 2, by Pueblo, CO, water reclamation officials. The release of 484,065 gallons of treated wastewater with chlorine levels four times the daily maximum occurred Monday, February 26, because of a broken vacuum line on the sulfur dioxide feed, said Gene Michael, Pueblo wastewater supervisor in his report to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In November, Pueblo released nearly 500,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater when a vacuum malfunctioned in the chlorine supply line. Unlike the November incident, no harmful bacteria were released. The amount of chlorine released into the water, 0.31 parts per million, is not harmful to human life, but could affect fish.

Source: <http://www.chieftain.com/metro/1172913635/6>

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Public Health Sector

20. *March 05, Reuters* — **China launches mass bird flu vaccination campaign.** China will vaccinate billions of domestic poultry over the next few months to guard against an outbreak of bird flu this spring, when the virus is at its most contagious, state media reported on Monday,

March 5. China's Agriculture Ministry ordered the vaccination campaign to begin before March 15 and end before May. During spring months, migratory birds fly north to summer nesting grounds, providing fertile conditions for spreading the deadly H5N1 virus.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSPEK30240320070.305>

21. *March 05, KNBC (CA)* — **Cruise ship hit with illness.** A stomach flu spoiled the vacation of passengers on a cruise ship that ended its 10-day voyage in San Diego, CA. At least 167 of the ship's twelve-hundred passengers and more than a dozen crew members got the stomach bug. It was the second straight trip and the fourth since last May that the ship — known as the Ryndam — has had to report an outbreak to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: <http://www.nbc4.tv/news/11173075/detail.html>

22. *March 05, University of California–Irvine* — **Scientists reconstruct migration of avian flu virus.** Researchers have combined genetic and geographic data of the H5N1 avian flu virus to reconstruct its history over the past decade. By knowing where H5N1 strains develop and migrate, health officials can better limit the spread of the virus by strategically intervening. Local vaccinations can be better administered by using strains from regions that have repeatedly contributed to outbreaks. From 192 samples obtained across Eurasia, the researchers reconstructed the virus's geographic reach and evolution. The analysis shows that Guangdong — home to a large poultry industry — is the source of many H5N1 strains that have spread to other provinces and countries. To the south in nearby Indochina, the strains appear largely limited to dispersal among local areas. Genetic sequences the scientists analyzed suggest that parallel evolution of different H5N1 strains lets the virus infect and cycle through different host species in a region, regardless of the host or vector species it infects first. This way, the virus can find the right host to spread the infection to the next location. This parallel evolution — the independent evolution of similar traits — enables H5N1 to spread quickly, the scientists believe.

Source: http://today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1581

23. *March 05, Reuters* — **Bird flu shot fights different H5N1 strains.** An experimental bird flu vaccine for humans provides substantial cross-immunity against "drifted" strains of the virus, suggesting it may provide protection in the event of a pandemic, its maker said on Monday, March 5. GlaxoSmithKline Plc said clinical data from two studies showed its pre-pandemic shot was able to recognize and kill an Indonesia H5N1 strain that was genetically quite different from the Vietnam one included in the vaccine. The finding is significant because it indicates the vaccine — which contains a special adjuvant — may help the body's immune system resist future variants of H5N1.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/health-SP/idUSL04111919200703.05>

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Government Sector

24. *March 06, WUSA9 (DC)* — **'Hit-list' uncovered at Maryland school.** It is a list that students at White Oak Middle School in Silver Spring, MD, describe as a "hit-list." The now notorious

list contains an undisclosed number of student's names in which the author, on paper, intended to cause harm in some shape or form. The list was initially found last Wednesday, February 28, by one student who thought it might be one of his classmate's homework assignment. That student turned the piece of paper over to a teacher who quickly realized it wasn't a homework assignment. The police were quickly called in and the student who created the so-called hit-list was located and reportedly expelled from the Montgomery County School system. One parent told WUSA9 that the female student might have been the target of bullying at the school. What remains unclear is the full extent of the threat outlined in the list and how many student's names appeared on the hit-list, that according to the letter sent home to parents, were never in any real danger.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=56461

25. *March 02, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-569CG: GAO's Initiatives to Improve Performance, Transparency, and Accountability in the Federal Government (Presentation)**. This was a special slide presentation given by David M. Walker, comptroller general of the United States, at a senior level coordination meeting between the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Congressional Research Service, in Washington, DC. This includes an overview of GAO's strategic plan for 2004-2009.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cghome/d07569cg.pdf>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *March 06, Advocate (LA)* — **FEMA approves \$14 million for new Louisiana building code**. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a \$14 million program to help local governments implement Louisiana's tougher new building code, Governor Kathleen Blanco said Monday, March 5. The state homeland security office will administer the program developed by the Louisiana Recovery Authority and funded by federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program monies. "Our program will provide them (local officials) with the financial support and resources they need to rebuild safer and protect our homes, schools and businesses from future storms," Blanco said. State lawmakers passed the new code several weeks after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It requires new construction to adhere to strict standards, such as thicker windows, braces for the building and roof straps -- all aimed at helping the structure survive high winds.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/6326632.html>

27. *March 05, Daily Californian* — **University of California-Berkeley launches system to track people in event of disaster**. University of California-Berkeley officials launched a new communication system Wednesday, February 28, to help inform people of how students, faculty, and staff are doing in the event of a disaster. The People Locator system acts as an online bulletin board, as students can log on using a CalNet ID and report on their whereabouts and health in the event of a disaster. The system allows the university to account for students collectively, and parents and friends do not need any identification to log onto the system. While the program is largely designed to deal with earthquake scenarios, the developers also hope to evolve the system for use in other types of emergencies.

Source: <http://www.dailycal.org/sharticle.php?id=23684>

28. *March 05, Palm Beach Post (FL)* — **Mass migration drill in Florida to prepare for possible crisis.** On Wednesday, March 7, several hundred emergency responders from about 50 government agencies in South Florida will stage the region's largest-ever "mass migration exercise." The idea is to simulate an event resembling the Mariel boatlift of 1980 or the Haitian exodus and Cuban rafter crisis, both in 1994. First responders employed by county and local governments from Key West to Jupiter, along with state and federal employees, are expected to swing into action as they receive word that the latest tide of sea-swept Caribbean refugees is reaching our shores. The two-day exercise is part of the Department of Homeland Security's regional protection plan, Operation Vigilant Sentry. The Department of Defense and federal immigration and border protection forces also will participate.

Source: http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/eper/2007/03/05/m1a_migration_0305.html

29. *March 02, State College (PA)* — **Collaborative technologies provide means to improve emergency response.** Collaborative technologies may help emergency responders and emergency planners share and exploit what they know, thereby minimizing errors and improving response effectiveness, according to a team of researchers in the Penn State College of Information Sciences and Technology. Currently, a "knowledge gap" exists between the two groups. Front-line responders possess deep, localized knowledge of what works and what doesn't when responding to actual emergencies. Planners, on the other hand, carefully consider all facets of a potential emergency as they develop extensive emergency-management plans, said Steven Haynes, lead researcher and assistant professor of information sciences and technology. The researchers suggest that collaborative, knowledge-sharing technologies can lessen the knowledge gaps by encouraging and improving information sharing. One of those technologies involves creation of repositories of lessons learned by responders during actual events. These would give planners access to responders' in-the-field innovations to be incorporated into future planning.

Source: <http://www.statecollege.com/news/local/article.php?cat=6&id=12026>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *March 07, Government Computer News* — **CRS: Terrorists find fertile environment in cyberspace.** Finding proof that terrorists plan to launch cyberattacks against the United States is difficult, but the accessibility and vulnerability of the Internet to attack makes it a growing threat. "The time may be approaching when a cyberattack may offer advantages that cause terrorists to act, even if the probability of success or level of effectiveness is unknown," according to the Congressional Research Service (CRS). This and other conclusions are included in a recent CRS report, titled Terrorist Capabilities for Cyberattack: Overview and Policy Issues, released by the Federation of American Scientists. Terrorists are using the Internet today to recruit new members, the report states. While it is highly likely that terrorist organizations are using cybercrime to finance their activities, the threat is expanding beyond credit card fraud and identity theft. The CRS report outlines the fragmented nature of the federal response to potential cyberattacks, pointing to responsibilities dispersed among the Homeland Security and Defense departments, the FBI and the intelligence community. CRS

refers to international efforts to prevent cybercrime as one way to address the terrorist threat. It cites the Convention on Cybercrime, which the United States has signed but not yet ratified.
Report: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/RL33123.pdf>
Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/43263-1.html

31. *March 06, US-CERT* — **Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-065A: Apple Releases Security Updates for QuickTime.** Apple QuickTime 7.1.5 resolves multiple vulnerabilities in the way different types of image and media files are handled. An attacker could exploit these vulnerabilities by convincing a user to access a specially crafted image or media file with a vulnerable version of QuickTime. Since QuickTime configures most Web browsers to handle QuickTime media files, an attacker could exploit these vulnerabilities using a Web page.

US-CERT Vulnerability Notes Database:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=VU%23568689,VU%23861817,VU%23642433>

An upgrade to QuickTime 7.1.5 is available via Apple Update:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106704>

Source: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-065A.html>

32. *March 06, Government Computer News* — **DoD intertwines data security, interoperability challenges.** The Department of Defense (DoD) is spending \$2.5 billion on information assurance in fiscal 2007, and a good portion of those funds are to ensure the military can share data safely and more easily with the intelligence community. John Grimes, DOD CIO, said Monday, March 5, the key to information sharing is security. “We are looking at those two areas in our architecture and in the next generation of security technology, and how we may change the nonclassified IP router network,” he said in Orlando, FL, at the Information Processing Interagency Conference, sponsored by the Government IT Executive Conference. “The only way to get to net-centricity is to ensure we can share information and it is interoperable.” One program DoD is working on with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other agencies is the National Command Coordination Center, which will improve information sharing among federal, state and local agencies. To ensure data interoperability, DoD is moving more toward communities of interest, including one recently set up in the maritime community with the Coast Guard, Navy and other agencies. Grimes said the Office of Management and Budget is paying close attention to how these communities succeed.

Conference Website: <http://www.ipicconference.org/>

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/43260-1.html

33. *March 06, CNET News.com* — **Security flaws found in fix for Firefox, SeaMonkey.** Mozilla Foundation on Monday, March 5, issued a critical fix designed to address vulnerabilities in a recent security update for the Firefox browser and SeaMonkey application suite. The security flaws were discovered in Firefox 1.5.0.9 and 2.0.0.1, as well as in SeaMonkey 1.0.7, according to a security advisory posted by Mozilla. Security researchers say the initial fix, issued in mid-December, was designed to address vulnerabilities in Firefox, SeaMonkey and Mozilla's Thunderbird e-mail client. But that particular fix introduced a flaw that could allow JavaScript code from Web content to be exploited, then lead to the execution of arbitrary code. Mozilla advises Firefox users to upgrade to version 1.5.0.10 and 2.0.0.2, and SeaMonkey users to update to version 1.1.1 and 1.0.8.

Mozilla Foundation Security Advisory 2007-09:

<http://www.mozilla.org/security/announce/2007/mfsa2007-09.html>

Source: http://news.com.com/Security+flaws+found+in+fix+for+Firefox%2C+SeaMonkey/2100-1002_3-6164702.html?tag=nefd.top

34. *March 05, Federal Computer Week* — **OMB analyzing architecture of agency business lines.** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is reviewing agency enterprise architectures with a keen eye toward how the blueprints will change mission-critical business lines. Dick Burk, OMB's chief architect, said Monday, March 5, that his office has been meeting weekly with agency chief architects to have them focus on specific business segments, and to get the owner of that business line to sign off on the architecture. "We want the architecture to be a reflection of their business because in the past we've seen it be a reflection of their" information technology, Burk said here at the 2007 Information Processing Interagency Conference sponsored by the Government Information Technology Executive Conference. "If we are going to solve the problems of the agency, we need the architecture to reflect where the business wants to be in three to five years." Burk said 25 of 26 agencies submitted their enterprise architectures for review, and OMB will have them analyzed by early April. With 93 percent of all development, modernization and enhancement funding going toward mission-critical systems, OMB thought segment architecture would be a valuable tool to improve the use of enterprise architecture, he said.
- Source: <http://fcw.com/article97820-03-05-07-Web>

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Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

35. *March 06, Fox News* — **Terrorism warning issued for cross-country championships in Kenya.** The U.S. Embassy said Tuesday it has been alerted to a possible terrorist threat against this month's world cross-country championships in Kenya. The embassy released a statement saying the threat was coming from "alleged extremist elements" and that the races "may be the target of an unspecified terrorist attack." Last month, the U.S. Embassy issued another strong warning to Americans, saying violent crime was increasing here and that Kenyan authorities have limited capacity to prevent it. The IAAF World Cross-Country Championships are scheduled for March 24 in the coastal city of Mombasa. Athletes from 66 countries are expected to compete in the races, which are being held in Kenya for the first time.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.256981.00.html>

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